

# *Alumni Columns*

Magazine

Fall 2004

Northwestern State University of Louisiana



**Alumni choose diverse  
music careers**

**Homecoming - October 15-16, 2004**



**Dr. Randall J. Webb, '65, '66**  
President  
Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni:

Northwestern State University has seen steady growth in recent years. As your alma mater has grown, we have not lost sight of the importance of the individual student. Remaining a responsive, student-oriented institution is one of our main priorities.

The university has made great strides in providing an outstanding education for its students and providing programs and services that help them work toward a college degree. Our goal is to continue to improve. Each day I work to make Northwestern better and challenge all who work here to do the same.

We attempt to listen closely to what our students have to say. Each year, we conduct a survey to find out what they really think. For the past three years, our rating in the category of "This college in general" has gone up, but there are always areas in which we can do better.

In addition to putting the best available faculty in the classroom, Northwestern seeks to make a variety of student services available. These services can make a difference in what a student thinks about NSU.

The university has improved its financial aid operation over the past five years. The Office of Financial Aid received a Quality Assurance designation from the U.S. Department of Education. The designation is awarded to financial aid offices that continually meet the needs of their students. NSU is the only Louisiana college or university to gain this achievement. Northwestern also simplified its billing and fee payment system, making many services available online and eliminating long lines at fee payment.

One area of longstanding concern to students and parents is our residence halls. We have done a great deal of work on all of our residence halls in recent years, but today's students generally prefer apartment-style housing.

Recently, several firms made presentations to the university, which will include the options of demolishing current residence halls and constructing new student housing, renovating existing housing or providing management services for residence halls. I am optimistic that this process will lead to some exciting results.

Construction is also progressing on the \$6.9 million Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center at the site of the former Intramural Building. The project should be complete by early 2005. I can't wait to dedicate that building. Our students will be amazed at the transformation of that facility. The Wellness Center will be one of the jewels of the campus and will help us attract students to Northwestern.

I can't help but get excited each fall when the academic year begins. There is a sense of optimism among our students, faculty and staff. I hope you can join us for Homecoming and see for yourself the wonderful things going on at Northwestern.

**Dr. Chris Maggio, '85, '91**  
Director Alumni and Development

Fellow alumni and friends,

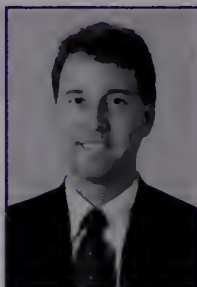
As I start my 17th year at Northwestern (can you believe it?), enthusiasm and optimism abound on campus. Students have finished their summer break and are back in full-force. The student union is bustling, students can be seen participating in extracurricular activities across campus, and flyers and posters plastered on buildings advertising student elections and other events note their return.

This positive energy and optimism generated by the students eager to start a new school year is contagious to faculty and staff. How can one not be excited about the activities and environment of a college campus? I feel very fortunate to be associated with more than 10,000 students and hundreds of faculty/staff members sharing the same goals and mission.

As alumnus/alumnae of Northwestern State University, we hope you feel this same enthusiasm about your alma mater, and we hope that if you haven't already done so, you will get involved with NSU. There are several ways to become involved.

1. Come back for Homecoming (October 16, 2004).
2. Attend an alumni event in your city/town (We host many throughout the year).
3. Help us start an alumni group/event in your community if we don't currently have one.
4. Send us your e-mail so that we can send you our monthly NSU E-News (you can send your e-mail address to [maggioc@nsula.edu](mailto:maggioc@nsula.edu)).
5. Help us locate friends and fellow alumni who might not be receiving their Alumni Columns Magazine (e-mail updates to [maggioc@nsula.edu](mailto:maggioc@nsula.edu)).
6. Become an alumni volunteer and represent NSU at a local college night in your community (again, e-mail me at [maggioc@nsula.edu](mailto:maggioc@nsula.edu) for information).
7. Help us host an NSU student recruiting reception in your hometown.
8. Give to the Annual Fund (Of course, financial support is greatly appreciated).
9. Become active in the "For a Brighter Tomorrow" Capital Campaign (the first comprehensive fund raising campaign in the history of Northwestern State University).
10. If you are doing some or all of the above, encourage others to share in your love for NSU!

We have a GREAT university, thank you to all who are involved and we welcome all who are ready to fall back in love with NSU!



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## Keeping the

# BEAT:

## Demon Alumni choose diverse music industry careers

You can find Northwestern alumni everywhere in the music industry. Whether they are rubbing elbows with famous musicians, making a name for themselves in local bands or speaking to you through your car radio receiver, former Demons know what it takes to hold a beat.



### Hardrick Rivers

A sax man and blues band leader, Hardrick Rivers is noted for his versatility. A native of Powhatan, he began playing music at age 13, learning what he could from the late local bluesman Overton Owens. After playing with Owens for several years, he eventually formed a band called the Lighthouse Crew, which he left to found the highly popular Rivers' Revue band. In the mid-1990s, Rivers was a key player in the formation of the Roque's Blues Band, a group spawned by Friday night jam sessions at Roque's Grocery, Pool Hall and House of Blues in Natchitoches.

Rivers earned a degree in general studies from NSU in 2001. A non-traditional student, he enrolled at age 35, consistently taking six to nine hours per semester, while working his day job as a carpenter and playing music on the side. It took him 10 years to graduate. Two months after earning his diploma, he was paid the professional compliment of being inducted into the Louisiana Folk Life Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists for his perpetuation of the blues genre. While a student at NSU, he played with the Jazz Ensemble for two semesters under Galindo Rodriguez, which he described as "a neat combination of musicians."

"We played a lot of jazz and swing charts that we had to read," Rivers said. "The other music I play is a lot of basic blues and improvisation, so it was good for me because I needed to brush up on my reading."

Being inducted into the Hall of Master Folk Artists during the 2001 Folk Festival "took me by surprise," he said.

Rivers has produced several CDs, three for Overton Owens, a single of his own music and a compilation of his music entitled "Home Cookin'." He is in the process of putting together a blues CD now, hopefully with all original songs, he said.

In 2003, Rivers, along with the B.B. Majors Blues Band toured Italy playing at numerous blues events. Currently, the Rivers' Revue Band plays every Thursday night at the Pioneer Pub, first and third Friday's at Mama's Oyster House, and the Last Friday Blues Jam at Roque's in Natchitoches. Rivers' Revue is slated to perform for NSU tailgaters on Oct. 16, Boogie on the Bricks Nov. 13, and during the Natchitoches Christmas Festival Dec. 4.

## Brandi Brammer

Brandi Brammer left the small town of Natchitoches to pursue life in a large city. Her first job out of college was at Bravo Entertainment in Dallas, but she soon realized that she would be more likely to realize her dreams in Los Angeles.

In L.A. Brammer started working for Creative Artists Agency, where she booked West Coast clubs for bands such as Green Day and Hoobastank. Later she began working for casinos booking larger, better-known acts such as Patti LaBelle, Julio Iglesias and Kenny Loggins.

Brammer, a 1998 graduate in hospitality,

management and tourism, currently works for the Academy of Country Music and just finished her first award show in May. She looks forward to life after her first experience in country music.

"The 2004 Academy of Country Music Awards would definitely be the highlight thus far," Brammer said. "During my weeks spent in Vegas I was in charge of a celebrity Motorcycle Ride that was led by Keith Urban and Montgomery Gentry. It was such a fun and successful event and we were able to raise money for our charitable foundation."

Brammer was also in charge of all the backstage footage interviews in a one-on-one room set behind the stage where she was able to arrange interviews for country celebrities such as Clint Black, Reba McIntyre, Uncle Cracker, and Gretchen Wilson.

Brammer also volunteers for the Street Scene music festival in San Diego, where she helps out with artists' interviews and backstage meet and greets.

Although she left Natchitoches and the south for big city life, Brammer still looks back to life at NSU.

"I hold all my college experiences close to my heart," she said. "I loved Natchitoches then and I love it now. I wouldn't have traded that experience for anything in the world. The friends I made and my experiences in that town effected who I am today."



## John Brennan

John Brennan, a 1998 graduate with a bachelor's in music education, has been producing award-winning percussionists in East Texas since he left NSU. In the fall of 1999, he was hired as the percussion specialist for the east cluster of the Plano Independent School District, teaching private lessons to as many as 70 students each week. In 2002 he joined the teaching staff at Plano East High School as the third band director and teaches jazz ensemble, two concert bands, and percussion class.

"I am loving every minute of it," Brennan said.

Brennan also worked with HQ Percussion in St. Louis, Missouri to develop a Real Feel Tenor Drum Practice Pad. This has proved to be very successful for students and teachers all over the world.

"I built the first prototype pad myself as part of an experiment with my students here in Plano," he said. "Once I finalized the plans, I contacted HQ and the rest is history."

While at NSU, Brennan began marching with the percussion section of the Cavaliers

Drum and Bugle Corps, which toured Japan in 1996. He became a member of the teaching staff.

He also started Metro Alliance Percussion, a competitive indoor percussion group that travels each spring. The group is made of students aged 15-21 from the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

"While at NSU, I learned a lot about responsibility and self-discipline. I

learned how to motivate myself in all aspects of school and life. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Ken Green and Mr. Bill Brent for all they did for me while I was in school."

For Brennan, academics and a social life came together in the form of a drum line.

"We had members from all over Louisiana, Texas and Missouri. It was so great that we could all come together and not just drum together, but also become such great friends together. I felt welcomed the moment I came to NSU."





## Blayne Mayard

Blayne Mayard began performing for live audiences during his days at NSU, mostly playing at private functions. It was then that he began seriously writing songs. He has managed to stay with it since.

"I really started performing back when I was in school," said Mayard. "You make your best friends during your college years. They are yours for the rest of your life. I played for many of my Kappa Sigma brothers' weddings."

Mayard's album, "Just Passing Thru,"

can be obtained through his Website, [blaynemayard.com](http://blaynemayard.com), or in music stores throughout Louisiana.

"When I started this album, I decided to choose 15 songs out of my archives, songs that not only showed my vocal skills, but also my songwriting ability. Each song is different to them, but they all have country, blues and Cajun influences."

Mayard, whose day job is real estate agent for the government, also has his own publishing company, Callen Blayne Mayard Publishing, which distributes his music.

Over the years, he has improved his songwriting skills by attending workshops.

"One thing they tell you when you go to songwriting sessions is to create your own buzz," he said. "It's a feast or famine life. I have a job that enables me to do music. I am fortunate."

*Editors Note: Thank you to all who submitted information regarding alumni with careers in music. There are so many talented alumni; we could not possibly include everyone in the story.*



## Chris Evans

Shreveport alumni can enjoy being entertained every morning by Chris Evans, also known as Evan Harley on K94.5 or the Chris Evans the Kissing Bandit on Kiss Country 93.5.

Evans, a 1999 broadcast journalism graduate, has been working his way up to music director and morning deejay at the Clear Channel Radio stations since moving back to Louisiana from Dallas in 2000.

"The best thing about working in radio is the freedom of it," said Evans. "I enjoy the entertaining aspect of it. It's a real job, but you spend your time talking to people and improving their day. You don't realize they pay that much attention to you, but they get upset if you are not there."

Evans credits a lot of his success in the radio industry from the classroom, but says that most of what he learned at NSU was in his environment.

"What I learned from the most was being around people," he said. "When you are in radio, a big part of being successful is going out and meeting your listeners. For instance, when I go out to people's work places as the Kissing Bandit,

it makes them want to be loyal to our station."

Evans also enjoys the chances to meet famous people. One of his favorite memories is interviewing Willie Nelson on his bus before a show.

Meeting up and

coming artists also highlights his radio job.

Evans also manages the local rock band Ultraswade. Evans has been getting insight from working on the other side of the industry since meeting the lead singer through friends.



## Attention all members of the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band

**T**he NSU Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band Alumni Association wants to hear from you! If you were in the NSU band or dance line, you need to be involved with the NSU Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band Alumni Association.

Ever wonder where your old buddies are? Well, they are wondering the same thing about you. Join the alumni association and keep track of what is going on with the best band in the South. Participate in reunions

and parties and most importantly, keep a strong voice for the band program in the future.

You are the assets that will keep your band program going strong forever. Strong band programs today need strong alumni for tomorrow.

Please visit our website at [www.nsula.edu/demonband/alumni.asp](http://www.nsula.edu/demonband/alumni.asp) to register your e-mail and contact information so that we can contact you with alumni updates.

# Homecoming Activities

Alumni and friends will have plenty to do during Homecoming Week at Northwestern.

Events will begin Thursday, Oct. 14 with a reception for NSU retirees from 3-4 p.m. in the Family and Consumer Science Building. The event, open to all NSU retirees, will be held in the upstairs dining room.

## Activities for Friday, Oct. 15

The Alumni Association Board Meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Room 221 of the Student Union. This annual Board of Directors meeting is open to the public. During the meeting, the board will hear an update on the university from NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, and review Association policies and procedures.

The annual Homecoming Golf Tournament will be held at the NSU Recreation Complex's 18-hole golf course. Guests are invited to participate in the annual gold scramble for \$50 per player, which includes golf cart and lunch by Coach Gene Knecht. Tee time will be at 1 p.m., following a noon lunch. Reservations can be made by calling the Rec Complex at (318) 357-3207 or e-mailing Hall Adams at [adamsh@nsula.edu](mailto:adamsh@nsula.edu).

According to Adams, Assistant Director of the NSU Rec Complex, the four-man scramble usually draws 17 or 18 teams, most of whom are NSU Alumni.

"We have a group from Leesville that are here every year," Adams said. Some come to play golf, others to socialize. "A lot come out just to eat and don't play in the tournament," Adams said.

The NSU Foundation Board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Cane River Room at the Student Union. The meeting is open to the public.

The annual campus/town Homecoming Parade for both the Natchitoches and Northwestern communities will begin approximately 5 p.m. at Prather Coliseum. The parade will proceed along South Jefferson and Jefferson Streets, turning onto Rue Beauport to end in front of the Fleur de Lis stage on the riverbank in downtown Natchitoches. A pep rally on the riverbank will follow.

The parade draws the school and community together by introducing citizens to the Homecoming Court, student athletes and spirit groups.

"It's community-building because it gets everyone involved in homecoming," said Terria Ebarb Alexander, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Organizations. "Alumni see students get excited and it helps rekindle their school spirit. The students see the alumni and their dedication."

An invitation-only reception honoring the Alumni Board, the Foundation Board, Distinguished Faculty recipients, Long Purple Line recipients and the President's Distinguished Service Award recipient will be held from 5:45-6:45 p.m. at the President's Home.

The Homecoming Banquet will be held to honor Long Purple Line recipients, the President's Distinguished Service Award recipient, Distinguished Faculty Award recipients and N-Club inductees. The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Alumni Center or by calling (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. A social hour prior to the banquet will be held from 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. in the lobby of the Student Union.

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity Reunion, for those who pledged Theta Mu Chapter from Fall 1980-Fall 1987 will begin Friday.

"This is the first time that cluster of classes is coming back as one," Kappa Sigma Alumnus Steve Horton said. He is expecting about 250 brothers to attend. "Having the opportunity to bring these guys back as a group to represent that generation is going to create an environment that's going to encourage this group to continue to come back."

Horton expects many to be surprised by how much the campus has changed, and how much it has stayed the same.

For more information, call Horton at (318) 352-7492 or 1-800-256-8025 or e-mail [hortons@nsula.edu](mailto:hortons@nsula.edu). Events are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings.

## Activities for Saturday, Oct. 16

The Catholic Student Organization will host Alumni Weekend activities beginning with a program to honor Alumni of the Year, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Lynch, and Laypersons of the Year, Joan and Buddy Gahagan. The program will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Holy Cross Church Hall and is open to the public.

During the program, the late Liz Carroll will be posthumously recognized. Carroll

was Assistant Director of Student Activities from 1987 until her death from cancer in 1999.

"Liz was dearly loved by the students," said Don Barker, chair of the pastoral council for Holy Cross Church. "She was a great contributor to student life and an active member of Holy Cross."

An Alumni Mass will begin at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, for all NSU alumni who attended Holy Cross as students.

A College of Education Reunion will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Teachers Education Building. All graduates of the College of Education are invited to attend a breakfast that will honor the inductees of the College's Hall of Distinguished Educators. For more information, call (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486.

The University Bookstore will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. where students, alumni and friends can pick up NSU memorabilia. The bookstore is located in the Student Union.

The N-Club Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. on the East Concourse of Prather Coliseum. The N-Club recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of intercollegiate athletics at NSU either by virtue of their performance on athletic teams representing the university or by meritorious efforts on behalf of the athletic programs at the university. For more information, contact Gil Gilson at (318) 677-3141 or e-mail [Gilson@nsula.edu](mailto:Gilson@nsula.edu).

The Columns Society Induction Ceremony will take place from 1-2 p.m. in the President's Room of the Student Union. The Columns Society will host the charter member induction ceremony and luncheon to recognize and honor special supporters who made a planned gift to NSU.

According to Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement Sharon Sampité, supporters will receive a certificate from Dr. Webb during program. Coffee and desserts will be served.

"This is our way of recognizing individuals who supported NSU through financial contributions," Sampité said.

For more information on The Columns Society, call Sharon Sampité at (318) 357-4245.

Alumni Tailgating will be from 1-3:30 p.m. at Tailgating Field. The Alumni Association will serve plate lunches for \$5



per person. All NSU Alumni are invited to visit the tent for a bite to eat and visit with college friends before the game.

Tailgating activities will be from 1-3:30 p.m. in Tailgating Field next to Turpin Stadium. Several campus groups, including Greek organizations, N-Club and College of Education, will be tailgating prior to the football game.

A 1954 Football Team Reunion will be held to honor teammates on their Golden Anniversary. Events will be held in the Stroud Room of the Athletic Fieldhouse beginning at 2 p.m.

Pregame activities will begin at 3:30 p.m. in Turpin Stadium. Guests are invited to enjoy the pre-game show performed by the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band and other game day activities. The Homecoming game versus McNeese State will begin at 4 p.m. Half-time ceremonies will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Several receptions will begin immediately following the Homecoming game at approximately 7 p.m. These include the Band Alumni Party, to be held in the Alumni Center; the invitation-only post-game reception for the Homecoming Court in the Stroud Room of the Athletic Fieldhouse, and the N-Club Barbecue at the Shriner's Club. For more information about the N-Club Barbecue call Gil Gilson at (318) 677-3141 or e-mail [Gilson@nsula.edu](mailto:Gilson@nsula.edu).

Join other Demon fans for a post-game celebration in downtown Natchitoches by attending Boogie on the Bricks, a free street dance/concert featuring Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs. Boogie on the Bricks will take place from 7-10 p.m. on Front Street.

A Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity reunion will be held, beginning with a breakfast and open house on Saturday, Oct. 16. The group will tailgate together before the Homecoming game and attend a dinner after the game.

Reunion organizer Wes Breeden expects 35-50 brothers to attend. The fraternity, which closed its chapter doors at NSU about 1981, was rechartered in 2000. Breeden said he expects alumni from 30 years ago to gather with recent graduates to swap stories about fraternity days. For more information, contact Breeden at [wesbreeden@aol.com](mailto:wesbreeden@aol.com)

# Homecoming at a Glance

## Thursday, October 14

**NSU Retirees Reception**  
3-4 p.m. – Family & Consumer Science Building (Up Stairs Dining Room) Reception for all Northwestern Retirees.

## Friday, October 15

**Alumni Association Board Meeting**  
10:00 a.m. Room 221, Student Union. Annual Board of Directors meeting open to the public.

**Homecoming Golf Tournament**  
1:00 p.m. — NSU Recreation Complex  
Come participate in the annual golf scramble on the 18-hole golf course for \$50 per player (includes golf cart and lunch by Coach Gene Knecht). Tee time is at 1:00 p.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling Hall Adams at the NSU Recreation Complex at 318-357-3207 or e-mail at [adamsh@nsula.edu](mailto:adamsh@nsula.edu).

**NSU Foundation Board Meeting**  
1:30 p.m. Cane River Room, Student Union. Open to the public.

**Homecoming Parade**  
5:00 p.m. (approx.) – Campus/Town Annual Homecoming Parade for both the Northwestern and Natchitoches communities. Begins at Prather Coliseum and ends at the Downtown Riverbank. Pep rally on the Riverbank will follow parade.

**Reception**  
5:45 p.m.-6:45 p.m. – President's Home. By Invitation Only. Honoring Alumni Board, Foundation Board, Distinguished Faculty Recipients, Long Purple Line Recipients, President's Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

**Homecoming Banquet**  
7:00 p.m. – Student Union Ballroom  
Annual banquet honoring Long Purple Line Recipients, the President's Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Distinguished Faculty Award Recipients and N-Club Inductees. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Alumni Center or by calling 357-4414 or 888-799-6486. Social prior to the banquet will be held from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Student Union.

## Saturday, October 16

**College of Education Reunion**  
9:30 a.m. – Teachers Education Building  
All graduates of the College of Education are invited to attend a breakfast that will honor the inductees of the College's Hall of Distinguished Educators. For more information, call (318) 357-4414 or 888-799-6486.

**University Bookstore Open**  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Student Union  
Go by the bookstore and buy all of your NSU memorabilia!

**N-Club Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**  
11:00 a.m. – East Concourse Prather Coliseum  
For more information, please call Gil Gilson at (318) 677-3141 or e-mail at [Gilson@nsula.edu](mailto:Gilson@nsula.edu).

**"The Columns Society" Induction Ceremony**  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – President's Room, Student Union. – The "Columns Society" will host the charter member induction ceremony and luncheon to recognize and honor special

supporters who made a planned gift to NSU. For more information on "The Columns Society", please call Sharon Sampité at (318) 357-4245.

**Alumni Tailgating**  
1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Tailgating Field  
The Alumni Association will be serving plate lunches for \$5 per person. All NSU Alumni are invited to come by the tent and grab something to eat before the game. It will be a great time to visit with friends you haven't seen in a while.

**Tailgating Activities**  
1:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Tailgating Field adjacent to Turpin Stadium. Various groups, including the Greek organizations, N-Club and College of Education will be tailgating prior to the football game.

**1954 Football Team Reunion Reception**  
2:00 p.m. – Stroud Room, Athletic Fieldhouse  
For more information, please call the NSU Athletic Office at (318) 357-5251 or e-mail at [burkeg@nsula.edu](mailto:burkeg@nsula.edu).

**Pregame Activities**  
3:30 p.m. – Turpin Stadium  
Enjoy the pre-game show by the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band and other game day activities.

**Homecoming Game vs. McNeese State**  
4:00 p.m. – Turpin Stadium

**Halftime Ceremonies**  
5:30 p.m. (approx.) – Turpin Stadium

**Band Alumni Party**  
7:00 p.m. (approx.) – Alumni Center

**Postgame Reception for Homecoming Court**  
7:00 p.m. (approx.) – Steve and Lori Stroud Hospitality Room, – Athletic Fieldhouse (by invitation only)

**N-Club Barbecue**  
7:00 p.m. (approx.) – Shriners' Club  
For more information, please call Gil Gilson at (318) 677-3141 or e-mail at [Gilson@nsula.edu](mailto:Gilson@nsula.edu).

**"Boogie on the Bricks"**  
7:00 p.m. (approx.) – Front Street  
Join Demon fans in the Historic District for live music, food and drinks as Natchitoches puts on its best for the Demons! Enjoy the sounds of Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs.

## Other Homecoming Activities

**Kappa Sigma Fraternity Reunion**  
Theta Mu Chapter  
Reunion of Pledge Classes Fall 1980 through Fall 1987. Events scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday. – For more information, please call Steve Horton at (318) 352-7492 or 1-800-256-8025 or e-mail at [hortons@nsula.edu](mailto:hortons@nsula.edu).

**Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Reunion**  
Events scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday. – For more information, please call Wes Breeden at (303) 842-7129 or e-mail at [wesbreeden@aol.com](mailto:wesbreeden@aol.com).

**Catholic Student Organization Reunion**  
9:00 a.m. – Holy Cross Church  
For more information, please call Don Barker at 357-5901 or e-mail at [barker@nsula.edu](mailto:barker@nsula.edu). You can also call the Holy Cross Church Office at (318) 352-2615.





SAN DIEGO - Northwestern State's top baseball export could only offer a light chuckle when the reporter asked the question.

"Did you know you're the main reason for about 90 percent of DirecTV sales in Natchitoches?"

Brian Lawrence, staying true to his humble roots, smiled and laughed at the notion that he, a former All-Southland Conference pitcher while with the Demons, could be the center of one town's attention.

But that is who Lawrence, now in his fourth season with the San Diego Padres, is - a genuine, affable person who hasn't forgotten his baseball roots while finding a home some 2,000 miles from Natchitoches.

"This (San Diego) is feeling like home," Lawrence said. "I stayed out here in the offseason and got to work out (at Petco Park) before it opened and got really familiar with it."

And though he now lives in Poway, a San Diego suburb, Lawrence has maintained his humility.

Many national baseball experts regarded him as a candidate for the All-Star Game earlier in the season but Lawrence declined to think of himself as one, despite ranking among major league leaders in pitching wins.

"I think it's hard for anyone to think of me for the All-Star Game," he said in June.

His manager doesn't think it would have been that hard for anyone to believe.

"He's a professional," Bruce Bochy said. "He came out of spring training and was talked about as much as anyone as far as concerns. He shut down those concerns pretty quickly and he's a guy who I definitely think will get some consideration for the All-Star team."

"He didn't change anything, even though his velocity was down. He went about his business and pitched some games without his best stuff and won and that's a sign of maturity."

Lawrence also got a taste of contentment along non-baseball lines on Nov. 15, 2003, when he married his wife, Maripat.

Lawrence's personality and work ethic have earned him the affection of San Diego fans.

A group of season-ticket holders in the left-field seats at brand-new Petco Park recently commented on how much fun they have watching Lawrence pitch and how likeable a person he seemed to be.

They, along with his teammates, quickly picked up

Lawrence's nickname of "B-Law." And the arm of the law has given Natchitoches residents plenty of reason to turn on 100.7 FM in Natchitoches on mornings after he pitches.

With Lawrence pitching in San Diego, the outcome of most of his starts, especially those at home, comes long after much of the Central Time Zone has called it a night. The radio station, however, gives its listeners a chance to catch up on how the hometown boy did the night before. The Lawrence updates come after each of his starts.

And, thanks in large part to Lawrence and his team-best 10 wins at the All-Star break, San Diego is flirting with a playoff berth for the first time since the Padres advanced to the World Series in 1998, which means the morning hosts on 100.7 FM in Natchitoches could be talking baseball into October this season.

That possibility is not lost on Lawrence, who, despite playing for struggling teams throughout his career has reached double-figure wins in each of his first three full seasons with the team. He has been the Padres' starter on Opening Day in each of the last two years. In his last win before the All-Star Game, he outdueled Astros' great Roger Clemens and beat Houston 2-0.

"We've picked up some pieces, personnel-wise, that we really needed to be competitive," Lawrence said. "An everyday catcher (Ramon Hernandez) to get acquainted with the pitchers. We picked up Brian Giles late last year, and we've got some pitchers who are doing well that have been here a few years. Everything has fallen into place."

The pieces certainly fell into place while Lawrence pitched for the Demons in 1997 and 1998. He was a two-year first-team All-Southland Conference pitcher as NSU won a pair of SLC baseball championships, first under coach Dave Van Horn and then under coach John Cohen.

Lawrence achieved at a high level despite working with two pitching coaches in two seasons at Northwestern. The same "professional" approach referenced by Bochy today with the Padres is something NSU teammates and coaches saw in Lawrence during his days in purple and white.

"He was a coach's dream," said Cohen. "He was going out there and carving up the other team's hitters. He had such great location and movement on the ball and he knew how to pitch. Meanwhile he took care of his business, was the ideal teammate, and wasn't the kind of guy you had to ever wonder what he might be doing."

"Brian has a great work ethic and a great approach to the game," said Cohen. "When you see one of your former players reach the big leagues, it makes you proud, but when it's somebody like Brian, you're proud times ten because the way he plays reflects the person he is. He's not flashy but he is very, very solid, very determined and very deserving of being in the big leagues."

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*"He's not flashy but he is very, very solid, very determined and very deserving of being in the big leagues."*

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*-Coach John Cohen*

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# Creech scholarship established

With their educational foundation developed at what was then Northwestern State College in the early 1950's, Harry and Clarice Creech spent nearly 20 years in locations ranging from Maine to Georgia to Viet Nam.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Chris Maggio, Clarice and Harry Creech, and Greg Burke.

The couple returned to Louisiana for good in 1970 when Harry retired from the service and they recently acknowledged the value of their education by establishing the "Harry and Clarice Creech Athletic Scholarship" through the NSU Athletic Association.

"Having a college degree automatically made me a candidate for Officer's School," said Harry, who received his undergraduate degree from Normal in December of 1950. He played middle linebacker on the football team and catcher for the baseball squad.

"NSU gave me the chance to earn that degree and what I learned both in the classroom and on the football field benefited me immeasurably."

Clarice Oliver met Harry when she started classes at Normal in January of 1951 and roomed with his sister. They were married in 1953.

"I knew his family before I really knew him. We began seeing each other when he would return home on leave from the service," said Clarice.

Harry, a retired Major in the U.S. Air Force, taught ROTC at Parkway High School in Bossier City and also served as a pilot for Shreveport-based McElroy Metal. Clarice taught school as well.

"We owe so much to NSU. Harry lost his father at age two and when he attended NSU, several coaches - Turpin, Ledet, Brown - all influenced him in such a positive way. We also understand how important scholarships can be to young people today, especially because the cost of education has risen considerably, and want our scholarship to help the NSU athletic program continue to be successful," added Clarice.

The Creeches, now both retired, live in Bossier City but still are avid fans at NSU athletic events.

The NSU Athletic Department will begin an annual tradition of hosting former athlete reunions, with special recognition for the anniversaries of championship seasons, this Fall. Former athletes will receive detailed information about the respective reunions in advance of the event.



**Football** - September 25 - Appalachian State - 20th anniversary of 1984 Gulf Star Championship

**1954 Team Reunion** - October 16 - Homecoming

**Volleyball** - September 24-25 - Nicholls State/Southeastern

**Women's Soccer** - October 1&3 - McNeese/Stephen F. Austin

**Cross Country** - October 22 - NSU Tri-Meet

**Men's/Women's Basketball** - February 12 - Louisiana at Monroe

**Women's Tennis** - February 26 - 10th anniversary of 1994 Southland Conference Championship

**Softball** - April 2-3 - Texas State-San Marcos

**Baseball** - April 8-9-10 - McNeese State - 10th anniversary of 1995 Southland Conference Championship

**TBA - Outdoor Track** - 20th anniversary of the 1985 Gulf Star Championship



## Alumni Gatherings



Playing golf to contribute to the Buddy Bonnette Memorial Scholarship Fund were Floyd LeBleu ('66), Wayne LeBleu ('70), Dan Rogers, Jimmy Martin and Rocky Hollen.



Playing golf was a family affair for Kyle; Kevin ('85); Kevin, Jr.; Kaila and Stacey ('84) Maddox Johnson.



Other players included James Haley ('59), Philip Haley ('62), Larry Skinner ('67) and Bill Callens ('67).



Many golfers competed in the Buddy Bonnette Memorial Day Golf Scramble, which contributes to a scholarship. Players included Dr. Bob Pender ('55), Dr. Len Ponder ('59), Dwayne Murphy ('56) and Dan Poole ('52).



Mary Ellen Cook, Amanda Cason ('03), Rebecca Cason (student) and Karen Bretthauer met with alumni from NSU and other Louisiana Schools at the Washington D.C. Louisiana Collegiate Coalition Crawfish Boil.

## Washington D.C.



Billie Roy Cook ('60) and his wife Mary Ellen enjoyed crawfish at the Washington D.C. Louisiana Collegiate Coalition Crawfish Boil.



## Baton Rouge coaches reception



Cory Wilson ('01) Lindsey Wright Wilson ('01) and Melissa Laney ('02) enjoyed meeting with other Baton Rouge alumni at the reception held in conjunction with Louisiana High School Coaches Association Conference.



Jason St. Germain ('02), Melodi Crowson ('98) and Ryan Roberson ('99) attended the annual alumni reception in Baton Rouge.

## Houston



Rob ('97 & '99) and Amy Choate ('02) Dill attended the reception for Houston Area alumni.



Dr. Webb and his executive assistant Robert Crew had dinner with many Houston Alumni.



Donna Rush Acosta ('90) and her husband Kendall Acosta ('88) visited with Dr. Chris Maggio (center) at the annual Houston alumni gathering.

## Longview Purple Pride Tour stop



Many Texan alumni gathered at the Purple Pride Tour stop in Longview.

# Long Purple III Line

Six new members have been added to Northwestern State University's Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. The 2004 inductees are: Joseph Dow of Pasadena, Texas; Gayle Hatch and Lela Mae Wilkes of Baton Rouge; Val Marmillion of Washington, D.C.; Dr. Michael Miller of Dunwoody, Ga. and Gregory O'Quin of Alexandria. Seventy-one individuals have been inducted into the Long Purple Line.

This year's group of inductees will be honored at Homecoming activities Oct. 15-16.

More information on the newest members of the Long Purple Line will be included in the Winter edition of the Alumni Columns.

## NSU Foundation creates The Columns Society

Alumni, parents and friends of Northwestern State University have an easy way to make a long lasting gift to help the university continue to excel.

The NSU Foundation has created The Columns Society to honor and recognize special supporters who make a planned gift to Northwestern.

Membership is given to those who make or have made a planned gift of \$10,000 or more for future support of NSU.

The charter members of The Columns Society will be honored in ceremonies during Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the President's Room of the Friedman Student Union.

"The Columns Society is a way to emphasize the importance of planned giving to Northwestern," said Sharon Sampité, assistant director of the NSU Foundation. "It also allows us to thank and recognize alumni and friends who create legacy gifts and lasting memorials."

There are many ways to leave a legacy to Northwestern, according to Sampité. One way is through a charitable bequest. This can be done easily by including or adding additional wording to your will or trust.

Other methods include a charitable remainder trust, a gift of life insurance, a gift of remainder interest in a home or land or a gift through a retirement plan designation. This would include a traditional IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) plan.

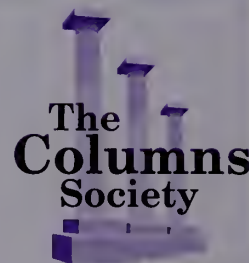
"There are many advantages to planned giving," said Sampité.

"There can be significant capital gains, income and tax savings. In addition, the donor can have the satisfaction of knowing they have created a legacy of helping Northwestern prosper."

Planned gifts can be used to create a named endowed or fully endowed scholarship, an endowed professorship or endowed chair. They can also be used to meet the greater needs of the university. A preferred academic college, school or department can be assisted as well as other areas of the university.

The NSU Foundation will have an estate planning seminar this fall to provide more information and answer questions.

For more information about a planned gift or membership in The Columns Society, contact the NSU Foundation at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486.



## NSU graduate sets a World Record



Later this year, you will find 1975 Northwestern graduate Randy Rumbelow in the 2005 Guinness Book of World Records. Rumbelow will be listed under the category of "Keyboard Playing Marathon-Individual," for playing the piano for 53 hours continuously at the Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in Kenner in August 2003. Shown is Rumbelow playing at a New Orleans Zephyrs baseball game.



## Students take on challenge from manufacturing plant

Something that started as a challenge for a pair of Northwestern State University students should end up saving time and money for a Natchitoches manufacturing plant.

James Smith of Metairie and Nick Hammonds of Goldonna have been working at the Natchitoches plant of Trus Joist, a Weyerhaeuser business, to develop a computer program for loading flatcars used in shipping. The company ships engineered lumber of various sizes and weights to customers and wanted to maximize what is loaded on each flatcar. A national consulting firm had been unsuccessful in solving the problem.

"We have used pencil and paper to maximize what is put on the car," said Jack Pitcher, shipping manager at the Trus Joist Natchitoches plant. "Sometimes an order would be entered that would be too much or not enough material and different combinations would not work. We asked the students to figure out a program that could digest the information and tell us how to put the different size bundles on the railcar."

According to Pitcher, the program could reduce the time spent in calculating a load by half.

"This has been a positive working relationship between Northwestern and Trus Joist," said Mike Wolff, manager of Trus Joist's Natchitoches plant. "I have been involved in economic development and look at where universities can piggyback on what private industry is doing. Economic development is one of those areas."

Last fall, Dr. Jack Russell, coordinator of Northwestern's computer information systems program, mentioned the project to Smith as a possible internship. Smith soon asked Hammonds to help him. In designing the program, Smith worked on system design and logic while Hammonds prepared the application.

"It's like having some blocks of different sizes and trying to fit as many as you can in a shoebox," said Smith, a computer information systems major in the Louisiana Scholars' College at NSU. "I evaluated the project and knew I needed help. Our skills complimented each other."

Smith and Hammonds are two of Northwestern's top computer information systems students, winning first place in systems design and analysis at the Association of Information Technology Professionals national collegiate competition last spring. This was the fourth year in a row NSU students have won a national title in systems design and analysis.

"Being able to do this project showed that we can compete and be successful in the real world," said Hammonds, who graduated in May. "We learn in a very competitive environment. We compete against other schools and each other. That competitive mode pushes us to learn more and gave us confidence that we could do this."

Wolff said the work done by Smith and Hammonds is a good reflection on NSU's College of Business.

"It's a good program that recruits good students," said Wolff. "They have a good current focus."

Initially Smith had to learn if anyone else had designed a program for this task. Once he learned that no one had, Smith

had to see if a prototype could work. He began by spreading out a set of LEGOS on a table and stacking them. Smith and Hammonds then started to design their program.

"It was one step forward and two steps back," said Smith. "Humans do certain things intuitively, but machines have to be told everything."

Smith said they were assisted by Dr. Jack Russell, with business faculty Dr. William Lomerson and Barbara Russell along with Dr. Margaret Cochran, director of the Louisiana Scholars' College, who teaches a class in linear analysis.

Once Smith and Hammonds completed the program, they give it to Pitcher, who evaluates the program to determine if it can perform the task it was designed for.

"He (Pitcher) tries to find a better way to do something or look for broken logic," said Smith. "Through this process, we have gotten better at looking for flaws and fixing them."

Once the final version of the program has been implemented, it could be used at other company facilities or throughout the facilities. In addition to the cost savings for Trus Joist, the program could help the company better satisfy its customers.

"This could also save time for our staff in customer service and our customers, which could help us with customer retention," said Pitcher.

The work done by Smith and Hammonds has led to a full-time job at Trus Joist for Smith, who plans to graduate in December. Hammonds is working for Trus Joist part-time.

## Dr. John Merrill will reunite with former journalism students.

A reunion of former Northwestern journalism students from the John Merrill era is scheduled for October 5. Dr. Merrill, who was a member of the NSU faculty from 1951-1962, will be here to share his memories, insight, wit, wisdom and awful puns, so his former students will not want to miss it.

"My 11 years at NSC (then so-called) was a critical time in my career and, in spite of some disappointments there, they are mainly positive ones. I had a great bunch of journalism students coming through during those years and I remember every one," said Merrill. "This reunion means a lot to me; I look forward to seeing these students again and hearing about their lives."

Since leaving NSU, Merrill has taught at four or five universities, several of them abroad, including American University in Cairo, Egypt. He has written approximately 33 books and has lectured in more than 70 countries.

Reunion plans include Dr. Merrill and some former students speaking to some classes on Oct. 5. A luncheon is planned for Dr. Merrill, journalism alumni and some journalism dignitaries from the area on Oct. 5 and a dinner that night just for Dr. Merrill and his former students.

For more information, contact Dr. Steve Horton at hortons@nsula.edu.

## Shaw scholarship endowed

A scholarship endowment established by Dr. B.L. "Buddy" Shaw of Shreveport to honor his daughter, Stephanie Shaw, will benefit a person enrolled in the College of Education at Northwestern State University. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student from Caddo or Bienville Parish.



Pictured l to r: Dr. and Mrs. Randy Webb, Stephanie Shaw, Dr. Buddy Shaw, and Dr. Chris Maggio

"This occasion has been brought about by the generosity of Dr. Buddy Shaw and his family," NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb said during a luncheon held to honor the Shaws. "What Buddy has done in providing this scholarship to honor Stephanie is to put

Northwestern in a better position to be competitive. It puts us in the position to, year after year, demonstrate progress."

"Stephanie has been such a special person to me," Dr. Shaw said. "And I wished to honor her in a way that would help people." The scholarship is also named for Miss Shaw's stepbrother, the late Edward Neff Minor, who attended Northwestern.

"This has been an outstanding honor for me today," Miss Shaw said. Outlining her own criteria for the scholarship, she said she hopes the recipient will be active, punctual and have a positive attitude.

Dr. Shaw graduated from NSU in 1955 and 1960. He was a state representative for District 6. Before serving in the Legislature, he was supervisor of Caddo Parish Public Schools and is a past principal of C.E. Byrd High School. He is president of the Northwestern State University Alumni Association.

## Four NSU alumni inducted into the Nightingale Hall of Fame

Four Northwestern alumni were recently inducted into the Louisiana Nightingale Hall of Fame by the Louisiana Nursing Foundation. Those honored were Patsy Bourgeois and Maxine Johnson of Shreveport, Dr. Alex Ferry of Alexandria and Sue Holland Pyles of Quitman.

Inductees into the Hall of Fame must be registered nurses who demonstrate leadership that has affected the health and/or social history of the state of Louisiana. Those inducted must have made a lifelong contribution to nursing practice, education, administration, research economics or literature.

Bourgeois, a professor of nursing at Louisiana Tech, received her master's degree from Northwestern. She has served as president, vice president and board member of the Louisiana State Nurses Association. Bourgeois was instrumental in passing a new Nurse Practice Act for the state of Louisiana. She also serves on the Louisiana Health Care Commission, the Committee on Health Care Reform, the Louisiana Stroke Task Force and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

Ferry earned his bachelor's degree at Northwestern and later earned two master's degrees and a doctorate. He served 12 years on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, serving as president six times and vice president on two occasions. He has served as president of the Louisiana State Nurses Association and on several committees of the American Nurses Association. Ferry held the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, serving in administration, education and practice positions. He is semi-retired.

Johnson received her bachelor's degree at Northwestern and has been with NSU's College of Nursing for 33 years. She is associate director for grants, planning and development and has obtained more than \$10 million in external funding for the College of Nursing. Johnson has been a member of the board of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, serving as health policy chair. She has also served on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, helping pass the Nurse Practice Act. Johnson earned the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, U.S. Army Reserve.

Pyles received both her bachelor's and master's degree at Northwestern. She received a teaching certificate and implemented a practical nursing program at Jonesboro-Hodge High School that was in operation for nine years. Pyles was on the faculty at Louisiana Tech for 14 years, holding the St. Francis Medical Center Endowed Professorship for her final four years of teaching. She is a charter member of the American Nurses Association Century Club and has been active in the Louisiana State Nurses Association. Pyles suffered a severe stroke, but recovered and speaks to groups regularly on stroke survival, recovery and rehabilitation.

### NSU Alumni will be able to join the WRAC



The Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center at Northwestern will open in early spring. Memberships will be available to NSU graduates.

Look for more information in the Winter Alumni Columns!



# Alumni Updates

1933

Thelma W. Stapler is a retired teacher and lives in Suffolk, Va.

1939

Janice Caldwell Sanders is a retired teacher and lives in Richardson, Texas.

1941

Melva Mayson Maxey is a retired teacher and lives in Lake Charles.

Mary Allen Caraway Warrick lives in New Orleans.

1944

Dorothy D. DeLoache Barnard is retired and lives in Shreveport.

1948

Ouida Mae Edwards Dulany is retired, married and lives in Belton, Texas

1949

H. Keith Presson is a retired senior vice president and trust officer at Texas American Bank and Washington State Bank. He lives in Granbury, Texas.

1953

Virginia Ann Metcalf retired from the United States Army as a chief physical therapist from the Office of the Surgeon General and lives in Wisconsin, Wis.

1954

Martha Louise Wright Jones is a retired teacher and lives in Gulfport, Miss.

Louis F. Hyams Jr. is retired and now working as ranger master at the Natchitoches shooting range, gunsmith, and chief instructor. He is NRA and state certified. He is married to Arnetta Lucille McPhearson Hyams ('63) and lives in Natchitoches.

John T. Batten Jr. is a self-employed cotton plantation farmer.

Kathleen Prudhomme Batten is a retired teacher, married to John T. Batten ('54) and lives in Bermuda.

1955

Maribel S. Stewart is retired and lives in Sulphur.

1957

Samuel J. Callia is a CRNA at Willis Knighton Medical Center, married and lives in Shreveport.

1960

Bob Johnson is retired, married to Nancy Johnson ('75) and lives in Shreveport.

1961

Norman Tyler is retired, married and lives in Springhill.

1966

Carol Rigdon Allison is a vision specialist, project coordinator for the Alabama Deaf Blind Project at the

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Education, married and lives in Birmingham.

1967

Gene Russell Rowzee is retired, married and lives in Suisun City, Calif.

Sandra Robertson Cannon is a librarian at Paradise Elementary School, married and lives in Ball.

1968

Robert Kimball Smith is a quality assurance manager for Louisiana Pigment Company and lives in Lake Charles.

1969

Richard W. Averitt is the director of education programs for

the Louisiana State Military Department, married and lives in Carville.

1970

Scott West is an application analyst for Halliburton Energy Services and lives in Coppell, Texas.

1972

Anne C. Landry is the director and owner of Ascension Prep School, married and lives in Prairieville.

Vivian O. Johnson is a counselor for Alief ISD and lives in Houston.

1973

Fred R. Parker is a professor of education at Henderson State University, married to Sandra Bethany Parker

## Melanie Gimbert McCain

Northwestern alumna Melanie Gimbert McCain's distinguished career as an educator began right on campus as a preschooler and has brought her full circle, as she assumes duties as principal of NSU Elementary Lab School this fall.

"I was literally raised on that campus," McCain, a life-long resident of Natchitoches, said. McCain's mother, Opal Gimbert, was head nurse at the campus infirmary from 1954-1970. "My first school experience was with the Child Development Center. I started school at 2-1/2 in that building under Dr. Marie Dunn."

McCain earned a B.S. in elementary education at NSU in 1974 and taught fourth grade at Weaver Elementary in Natchitoches while working on her M.Ed. in special education with emphasis in gifted education, which she received in 1978. She worked for two years piloting gifted programs for third and fourth graders parish-wide, and from 1980 to 1995 worked with the gifted program at NSU Elementary Lab.

In 1995, McCain became elementary supervisor at the Natchitoches Parish School Board. She went to work in 1999 for the Louisiana Department of Education as a Distinguished Educator, working in Rapides and Orleans parishes for two years each. In 2003, she was named Title 1 supervisor for Natchitoches Parish Schools and in June of this year assumed the role of principal at NSU Elementary Lab.

"I had wonderful professors at Northwestern," McCain said. "Dr. Eleanor Worrell was an excellent educator. Dr. Mildred Bailey, Dr. Bob Lumpkins.... I was very well prepared."

McCain was selected in 1998 for the Fulbright Memorial Fund Program in which 600 of 2,000 applicants nationwide were awarded scholarships for a three-week home study in Japan. When she was chosen as a Distinguished



Educator, she was one of only 13 educators chosen from 150 applicants and the only one chosen from the Cenla area.

McCain's family has been closely connected to NSU. In addition to her mother's service at the infirmary, her sister Liz Carroll was a friendly and familiar face in the NSU Student Activities office, where she was assistant director from 1987-99. The Liz Carroll People's Choice Award is given during the Lady of the Bracelet pageant in her honor.

McCain's husband, Steve, attended NSU and was a member of Kappa Alpha and her son, Stevie, is an alumnus of Kappa Sigma. McCain's daughter, Susan McCain Godfrey, earned a degree in family and consumer sciences at NSU where she was a member of Phi Mu, and now is a teacher at Many High. The McCains have one grandchild, Madeline Godfrey.

"All of my education has come from NSU," McCain said. "I feel like my education at NSU has held up, not only across the state, but across the nation."

## John A. Manno Jr.

When he came to Northwestern State University after graduating from Jesuit High School in Shreveport in 1975, John A. Manno Jr. found himself in a freshman English class bigger than his high school graduating class.

"I'm an only child and a product of private education," Manno said. "One of the most important things I learned at Northwestern was how to work with other people and being involved and getting other people involved."

When he graduated in 1978, Manno was among the last students to earn an associate degree in printing technology before the program discontinued. He also earned an associate degree in business administration.

Having grown up in the printing business, Manno said at times he knew more than his NSU instructors. One fond memory of NSU was being asked to student teach Printing 101 instead of doing class work. "That was a unique opportunity," he said.

On campus, he was a member of Kappa Sigma and lettered for being a student trainer for the football team, earning him a spot in the N Club. He was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.



Manno joined his father in the family printing business, and today is co-owner and vice president of Southland Printing in Shreveport. He holds many professional organization memberships and has been active in the Krewe of Gemini, Volunteers of America, the Strand Theatre Board, the American Red Cross, his church and many charitable and business organizations.

His service to NSU has continued through his affiliation with the NSU Alumni Association, the NSU President's Council, the NSU Athletic Association and the NSU Foundation Board.

Married to the former Carol Lynne Averre, who also attended NSU, the couple have two children, John Anthony "Jay" Manno III, an incoming NSU freshman this fall, and Bianca Marie "Mary" Manno, 16.

('66) and lives in Hot Springs, Ark.

Katherine Ann Miller Fine is a special education instructional assistant at Prescott High School, married and lives in Prescott, Ariz.

1974  
Dr. Jack Damico is employed by ULL and holds one of six Eminent Scholar Chairs, conducts research, teaches graduate students, consults and serves as a keynote speaker. He is married and lives in Lafayette.

Benjamin E. Carter is the president and CEO of Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce, married to Gwyn Carter ('73) and lives in Stuart Draft, Va.

1975  
George Morris Antony is a collection officer for Alexandria USDA Federal Credit Union, married and lives in Pineville.

Kenneth Dan Driskill is a jail warden for the Bienville Parish Sheriff Department and lives in Arcadia.

1976  
Barbara Gayle Hubbard McGill is the compliance director for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and lives in Metairie.

1980  
Donna Myers Gibbs is the assistant director of field activities at Principia, married and lives in St. Louis, Mo.

James Ferdinand Bowie is employed by the United State Army and married.

Betty S. Henry is a radiographer III at Ben Taub Hospital and lives in Bellaire, Texas.

1981  
Edward T. Milligan is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and married.

1985  
Lesla deNeel Bolton Miller is a teacher for Vernon Parish School

Board, married and lives in Slagle.

Mike H. Packard is the band director at Valley View High School, married and lives in Jonesboro, Ark.

Debra E. Moreau Cheatwood is a nuclear medicine technologist at Natchitoches Parish Hospital, married and lives in Natchitoches.

1986  
Valerie Rose Palmere Scott is a nurse practitioner at Dr. Robert Goodman's Arthritis and Rheumatology Clinic, married and lives in Bossier City.

1988  
Debbie Lynn Cable Brown is a physical education teacher for Killeen ISD, married and lives in Harker Heights, Texas.

1990  
Gregory M. McClain is special agent for the U.S. Customs Service, married and lives in Fort Mill, S.C.

Rita Arlene Hongo Marzett is employed by the Rapides Parish School Board as a third grade teacher, married and lives in Pineville.

1991  
David Antilley is director of NSU22, media director at FBC, BCM Faculty Advisor, on location engineer and statistician for Demon Sports Network during football season. He lives in Natchitoches.

1992  
Lesh Brown is a senior account executive for Arena Solutions and lives in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Monica B. Tudorache is a self-employed senior consultant, married and lives in Weston, Fla.

David Patrick "Pat" Hall is a corporate manager - patient management applications for Tenet Health System and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Rene Gerald Labonte is a registered nurse at

South Florida Bioresearch Center and lives in Fort Myers, Fla.

Linda Davis Crochet is the privacy and fair information practices specialist for Acxiom Corporation, married and lives in Little Rock, Ark.

Denice Williams Mitchell is employed by the Department of Homeland Security as a supervisory center adjudications officer, married and lives in Dallas.

1993  
Craig Ahern Tappel is a senior vice president for Hibernia Insurance, married to Josie B. Venable Tappel ('94) and lives in Mandeville.

Kevin David Fayard is a loss control vehicle repair and maintenance specialist for Enterprise Rent-A-Car, married and lives in River Ridge.

Holly Christine Gauthier Thibodeaux is employed by Our Lady

of Lourdes Regional Medical Center as a clinical marketing manager, married and lives in Carencro.

Natalie Neugent is an elementary music specialist at West Hurst Elementary and lives in Hurst, Texas.

1994  
Josie Bernadette Venable Tappel is a homemaker, married to Craig Ahern Tappel ('93) and lives in Mandeville.

Billy Stone is employed by UTMB-Correctional Managed Care as a staff psychotherapist in the TDCJ Hobby Unit and lives in Hewitt, Texas.

Anna M. Sepulvado Fletcher is homemaker, married and lives in Shreveport.

Dr. Deborah Sue Flournoy is an associate professor in the college of nursing at NSU and lives in New Boston, Texas.



Laurie Coco Moreau is a controller and bank officer at American Gateway Bank, married and lives in Port Allen.

#### 1996

Cassondra Dawn Savoy Guilbeau is public relations manager for Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino, married and lives in Lake Charles.

Matthew Tracy Whitehead is employed at Matthew T. Whitehead, DDS and Louis J. Joseph, DDS as a general dentist and lives in Woodworth.

Kevin Jones is an applications engineer for Creston Electronics, married and lives in Lewisville, Texas.

Chastity Lea Walker Oliver is a public health nurse at Jackson Parish Health Unit, married and lives in Quitman.

Shelly Rae Murphy is a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines and lives in Gonzales.

Richard Seigler Sahadi is employed by Prestonwood Baptist Church as the Macintosh systems administrator, married to Jennifer Fox Sahadi ('97) and lives in Dallas.

#### 1997

Denise Webster Ellison is a teacher for the department of defense dependent schools.

Lisa Ann McCarty Pugsley is a staff 4 registered nurse in the cardiac intensive care unit at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, married and lives in Duluth, Ga.

Jennifer Lynn Fox Sahadi is a registered nurse at Medical City Dallas Hospital National Fertility Center, married to Richard Seigler Sahadi ('96) and lives in Dallas.

#### 1998

Linda Weatherford Howard is a kindergarten teacher at North Natchitoches Elementary, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Synthia Michelle Doaks is a mutual fund trader for Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. and lives in Milwaukee, Wis.

Eddie Horton is a network administrator for Caddo Parish Juvenile Court and lives in Shreveport.

Gina Elizabeth Mahl is a registered nurse at Tulane Hospital and lives in Metairie.

Cichele Sutton Fields is the ESOL teacher and color guard instructor at Apopka High School in North Orlando, married and lives in Maitland, Fla.

Anne Labbe is a HR representative for Lyondell Chemical Company and lives in League City, Texas.

Marci Barnett Smith King is a team leader of the dialysis unit at Christus Shumpert Medical Center, married and lives in Bossier City.

Tammy Joan "JT" Marsh is an athletic trainer at Jamestown Regional Medical Center and lives in Clarkrange, Tenn.

#### 1999

Misti Chelette Adams is the director of student financial aid and scholarships, married to Hall Adams ('97) and lives in Natchitoches.

Christy Elston Thompson is employed by DeKalb Medical Center as a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit in Atlanta, Ga., married to Eric Thompson ('96) and lives in Loganville, Ga.

Brad S. Poston is a VIP executive host at Harrah's Louisiana Downs, married to Michelle Belanger Poston ('00) and lives in Bossier City.

Kammese Janet Moore Shelton is a record analyst coordinator for NSU, married and lives in Natchitoches.

#### 2000

Dana Anne Duhon Andrus is a speech language pathologist for Vermillion Parish School System, married to Kevin Andrus ('00) and lives in Lafayette.

Terrick Harrell is employed by the United States Department of Agriculture as a computer assistant, married to Shawntell Lewis Harrell ('00) and lives in Alexandria.

Carin Elizabeth Link Wilson is an English and drama teacher at New Iberia Senior High School, married to Anthony Wilson ('00) and lives in Abbeville.

Branden Johnson is a crisis screener at Sabine Valley Center, married and lives in Longview, Texas.

Michelle Katherine Belanger Poston is the VIP coordinator at Harrah's Louisiana Downs, married to Brad S. Poston ('99) and lives in Bossier City.

Anthony Wilson is a teacher and baseball coach at Erath High School, married to Carin Elizabeth Link Wilson ('00) and lives in Abbeville.

Veronica Lee Davis Reyes is a kindergarten teacher at North Polk Elementary, married and lives in Elmer.

#### 2001

Holly Elizabeth Horn Broussard is a closing officer for Andrus & Andrus Law Firm, married and lives in Lafayette.

Christy Evelyn Shelder McLemore is an office manager for RE/MAX Dream Team, married and lives in Wayland, Mich.

Lindsey Wright Wilson is a hair stylist at I Catchers Hair and Body Spa, married and lives in Baton Rouge.

Chrissie Landry Herrera is attending UNO for Ph.D. in political science, married and lives in New Orleans.

Virginia Louise Dixon Moncreet is a loan officer for Novastar Home Mortgage, married and lives in New Roads.

Lyndsey L. Courtney Chandler is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Warner-Chilcot Lab, married and lives in Bossier City.

#### 2002

Krissy Lynn McDurmond is a medicare case manager at D'Ville House, married and lives in Plaquemine.

Crystal Robbins is employed at Horseshoe Casino Hotel and lives in Shreveport.

Erica Marie Borel Kiely is a certified veterinary technician at Animal Medical Center in Rogers, Ark., married to Joseph Anthony Kiely ('02) and lives in Pea Ridge, Ark.

Melissa McMillin Leong is an office manager for Shafer Associates Architects, married and lives in Starkville, Miss.

Erin Carrigee Nolan is an event coordinator at Pat O'Briens in New Orleans, married and lives in Gretna.

Shelly Tyson is an account executive for Konica Minolta and lives in Tampa, Fla.

Kristy McDaniel Ratliff is an aerobics instructor for Willis Knighton Health System, married to Carlo Ratliff and lives in Shreveport.

Jerrold Cane Guin is an industrial engineer for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., married to Mary Francis Guin ('01) and lives in Richland, Wash.

Rachael Kristen Kidd is the director of public relations and marketing for the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra. She lives in Shreveport.

Jessica Jane Stokes McClelland is a site

coordinator at NSU, married to Thomas McClelland ('04) and lives in Natchitoches.

#### 2003

Zach David Sanches is an insurance agent for Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) and lives in Kingwood, Texas.

Jennifer Bryant is a dispatcher for the city of Leesville and lives in New Llano.

### *In Memory*

James Losness

'24 Jeroline Perry Bumgardner, Ringgold, May 22, 2004

'42 Allie M. Neely Valentine, Nacogdoches, Texas, May 7, 2004

'46 Dr. Jewell Watson, Monroe, July 17, 2004

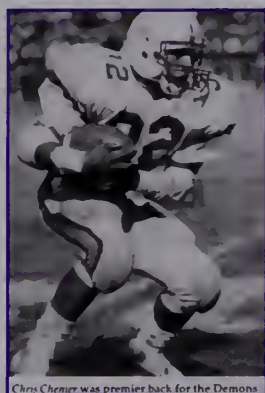
'46 Minnie Marie Durr Williams, October, 2003

'28 Lucille Tinker Carnahan, former NSU faculty member of library science passed away on June 29, 2004. Carnahan, who retired from NSU in 1965, started the first statewide organization for library science. Carnahan is remembered for her support of local cultural events and instilling a love for reading in Natchitoches Parish residents. She was also a fan of Demon athletics who rarely missed basketball games.

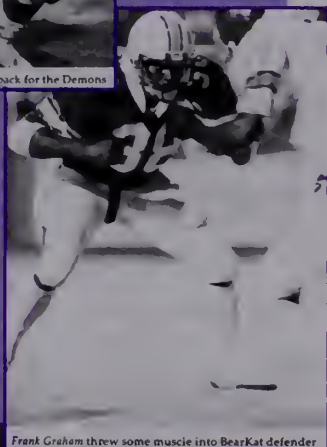


# LOOKING BACK

## 1984 Football Team



Chris Chenier was premier back for the Demons



Frank Graham threw some muscle into BearKat defender



James Hall and Wilson Brown attempted to block a field goal



Roy Fontenot lost two BearKats

After winning their last three games, two over nationally-ranked foes, to close the 1983 football season, prospects were encouraging for the 1984 Northwestern State Demons in their second season under head coach Sam Goodwin.

Even a pair of opening losses, each by a field goal, didn't deter the Demons, who won seven of their next eight games and shared the championship of the Gulf Star Conference in that league's first year of existence. The conference co-championship wasn't the most memorable achievement of the 1984 Demons, however.

Neither would be the fact that NSU (7-4) led Division I-AA in scoring defense, allowing just nine points per game, although that attribute played a pivotal role in the '84 team's most amazing feat.

On Nov. 3, the Demons stunned a homecoming crowd of 24,682 at the University of Southern Mississippi by recording a dominating 22-0 win over a Golden Eagles team that a year earlier played in the Independence Bowl and a few weeks before had beaten Ole Miss. Northwestern allowed only nine first downs and 128 total yards while forcing USM to punt 10 times.

Center Rickey Ainsworth was voted permanent team captain by his teammates, receiving the Joe Delaney Leadership Award. Linebacker Corris Boyd was given the Lester Latino Memorial Award for unselfish team play.

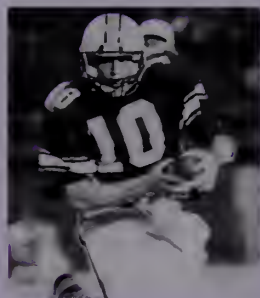
Two Demons, offensive tackle James Boyd and future NFL star Robert Moore, were voted to the Academic All-District VI football team for Division I players in Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma. Another future pro star, running back John Stephens, was named the Gulf Star Conference newcomer of the year. Goodwin won GSC coach of the year accolades.

Defensive tackle Arthur "Tank" Berry piled up postseason honors: GSC Male Athlete of the Year, GSC Football MVP, All-Louisiana first team, and first-team Associated Press I-AA All-America awards. Berry was voted the Demons' Defensive MVP while quarterback Wayne Van won the Offensive MVP award and receiver Mark Johnson took the Academic Award.

The 1984 Demons included six players who went on to play in the NFL: Stephens, the 1988 AFC Rookie of the Year; Moore, a starting safety for Atlanta; linebacker Larry Robinson (Dolphins); receiver Odessa Turner (Giants, 49ers); defensive end James Hall (Chiefs) and defensive tackle Willie Fears (Bengals).

"We had some talent," said Goodwin, "but most of all, we had more heart."

The department of athletics will host an all football reunion with special recognition of the 1984 football team on September 25. For more information, e-mail Athletic Director, Greg Burke at [burkeg@nsula.edu](mailto:burkeg@nsula.edu) or call 318-357-5251.



## GUESS WHO?

Can you guess the name of this 1984 football player? If so, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. The first five people to call with the correct answers will win a prize!

Congratulation to these winners who correctly guessed that Byron McCain was the BSU president pictured in the Summer Alumni Columns.

Mrs. Rae Creed—1954  
Houston

Ms. Clydie Mae Beecham Price—1953  
Colorado Springs, CO

Ms. Barbara Burns—1954  
Dallas

Mrs. Peggy Howard—1968  
DeRidder

Ms. Adrienne Raborn—1956  
Atlanta, LA

Ms. Mary Grice—1956  
Lake Charles, LA

Ms. Glenda Coburn—1960  
Leesville

Ms. Marriette Dyson—1954  
Lake Charles

Mr. Marc Lebato—2001  
Leesville

Ms. Thelma Childs—1953  
Tyler, TX

Mrs. Shelia Bond—1990  
DeRidder, LA

Ms. Virginia Crossno—1957  
Natchitoches

Ms. Erika Russell—1999  
DeRidder

Mr. Tynes Hildebrand—1954  
Natchitoches

Ms. Cindy Randles—1955  
Alexandria



# Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Circle Last First Middle Maiden

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NSU undergraduate degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

NSU graduate degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

During which years did you attend NSU? \_\_\_\_\_

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's graduate degree (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497**

**If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:**

**Director of University Recruiting**  
Northwestern  
State University  
South Hall  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-4503  
800-327-1903

**Director of Financial Aid**  
Northwestern  
State University  
Room 109, Roy Hall  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-5961

**Athletic Director**  
Northwestern  
State University  
Room 101C  
Athletic Fieldhouse  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-5251

# Homecoming - October 15-16, 2004



**Turn to page 4 for information about Homecoming activities.**

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